

such as wagons, ladders, and lanterns. Each member paid dues to fund the organization. They also elected the first officers of the company; Chief Walter Allen, Treasurer Charles M. Allen, Secretary Raymond A. Henry, Warders Harry W. Bennett and Frank S. Happe.

Membership requirements were simple and reflected the physical challenges of firefighting and the social mores of the times. Members needed to be men between the ages of 18 and 45, in good health, and to live within one and a half miles of the village green. Members were called to action by the ringing of the church bell in the Presbyterian Church and had to live close enough to hear the bell and respond quickly.

The first piece of apparatus for the new Hose Company was a hand pulled hose cart and 500 feet of hose donated by the Basking Ridge Improvement Society. The Fire Company proudly displays this hose cart at special events and gatherings. Soon after, the Company approved the purchase of fabric fire buckets for 5 cents each and the construction of several ladders and a cart upon which to carry the ladders and buckets. Lumber and materials for the construction of the ladders and cart were donated by M.F. Ellis, Robert C. Bishop, and David Y. Moore.

In 1906, the Basking Ridge Hose Company incorporated under the laws of New Jersey as a volunteer Fire Company, renaming itself the Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1, Inc. Men and horses pulled the equipment to fire scenes until the first motorized fire apparatus was purchased in 1911. Basking Ridge's first fire truck was a Moline Motor Car, a 40 horsepower contraption that carried six men. The first Fire House was built by resident volunteers at the corner of Henry and South Maple in 1905 at a total cost of \$600. It was replaced by a brick structure in 1915.

The Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1 has grown over the years to meet the changing demands of the town and to incorporate the newest firefighting and lifesaving technologies. In 1985 the company moved into a new headquarters at 30 Washington Avenue. The Company operates three fire engines (purchased in 1986/97, 1992 & 2003 respectively) a heavy rescue truck (acquired in 1997), and increased from one to two ambulances in 1988. The entire roster numbers over fifty people although only approximately 35 are active firefighters/EMTs. The Company remains all-volunteer and responds to over 900 requests for help, fire and first aid, a year as well as serving at numerous civic events.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1 on the celebration of 100 years of a rich history in the protection of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004
LEGRAND SMITH OUTSTANDING
TEACHER AWARD WINNER
MELISSA SOUVA OF BRONSON,
MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, education is the key to our Nation's future prosper-

ity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement partially rests in the hands of our teachers. Today, I would like to recognize a teacher from Bronson, Michigan that significantly influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership who were winners of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship.

Melissa Souva teaches Agricultural Science at Bronson High School in Bronson, Michigan. She is credited with instilling in students an enthusiasm for not only these subjects, but also for life. As one of her students, Bobby Jo Ludwick said, "Mrs. Souva has taught me the importance of good leadership and community service. The self-confidence that I've gained from her support will play a role in my life everyday. She has taught me that I can make a difference. I thank her for making a difference for me." The respect and gratitude of her students speaks well of Melissa's ability to challenge young minds and encourage them to always put forth their best effort.

Melissa Souva's extraordinary work as a teacher has challenged and inspired countless students to move beyond the teenage tendency of superficial study and encourage them to foster deeper thought and connections to the real world. Arguably, no profession is more important because of its daily influence upon the future leaders of our community and our country, and Melissa's impact on their students is certainly worthy of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Melissa Souva. We thank her for her continuing dedication to teaching and her willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students to strive for success.

COMMENDING DR. LARRY MILLER
ON HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE
TO HIS COMMUNITY AND UPCOMING
RETIREMENT AS SUPER-
INTENDENT OF MILLVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. LoBIONDO Mr. Speaker I rise today to commend Dr. Larry Miller on his long and distinguished service to his community, and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement as superintendent for Millville Public Schools on July 1, 2004.

Dr. Miller has been a strong advocate for the educational community of Southern New Jersey for the past forty-one years. He personally has given his time and energy to better the educational system on behalf of his students. I am happy to say that Dr. Miller's leadership and tireless advocacy were recognized recently when he was chosen as the New Jersey Superintendent of the Year for 2004. His hard work has set a high standard for all educators and community leaders to follow.

Dr. Miller rose up through the ranks of the Millville Public Schools, and has left a trail of positive change and enthusiastic accomplishments. I would like to congratulate Dr. Miller, and thank him on behalf of the people and students of New Jersey's Second Congress-

sional District for a job well done. I hope he enjoys every bit of his retirement, he certainly deserves it.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR
RALPH GUERRERO, JR.

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Major Ralph Guerrero Jr. who on June 24, 1974, enlisted in the United States Marines Corps and will officially retire today after 30 years of honorable and distinguished service. Sergeant Major Guerrero leaves the Marines Corps as one of the most respected and accomplished member of our armed forces.

A native of San Fernando, California, Sergeant Major Guerrero was born on July 14th 1956, and graduated from San Fernando High School in June 1974. Sergeant Major Guerrero and his wife Silvia P. Gomez have a son, Ralph III, and a daughter, Chyenne. Sergeant Major Guerrero is the quintessential local success story.

After he graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA and completed Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, CA, Sergeant Major Guerrero embarked on a successful Marine Corps career. From his participation in the evacuation of South Vietnam and Cambodia; to his amphibious reconnaissance training; to his assignment to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego California, where he served as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, Chief Drill Instructor and was meritoriously promoted to Gunnery Sergeant; Sergeant Major Guerrero has proven himself a critical team player.

Sergeant Major Guerrero's leadership and expertise were vital to the Marine Corps during his deployment to El Salvador as an Advisor to a Battalion of Salvadorian Marines. During his subsequent deployments, including: Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Sea Angel, Operation Restore Hope, Operation Noble Eagle and his visits to Marines in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom his contributions were invaluable. His exemplary leadership skills proved critical to the Marine Corps during his tour of duty at Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, where he served as the Command and the Military District of Washington Sergeant Major. During this tour, Sergeant Major Guerrero was a member of the FY99 E-8/E-9 selection board, Chairman Senior Enlisted Advisory Community for USO, a member of the Board of Director's for USO and Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, and a member of the Foreign Joint Services NonCommissioned Officer Associations.

In July 1999, Sergeant Major Guerrero was assigned to a Major Marine Corps command, as the Sergeant Major for Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni Japan. In 2001, he was assigned as the Sergeant Major for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. These important assignments were evidence of the great respect and trust he had earned.

Sergeant Major Guerrero is deservedly highly decorated. He has earned the Legion of

Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Gold Stars in lieu of 3rd Award, the Navy Achievement Medal with Gold Star in lieu of 2nd Award, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Action Ribbon with 4 gold stars in lieu of 5th Award, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal with Bronze Star in lieu of 2nd Award, the Vietnam Service Medal with bronze star in lieu of 2nd award, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 bronze stars in lieu of 4th award, the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and various Unit Awards.

Sergeant Major Guerrero has worked to raise the public's awareness of the many contributions the military makes to the local community. He has also committed himself to working with schools to help increase appreciation for our armed forces among school children.

It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Sergeant Major Guerrero for his distinguished 30 years of service to country, to congratulate him on his retirement and to wish him the very best in the years ahead.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ENACTMENT OF GI BILL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, sixty-years ago today, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, known thereafter as the GI Bill.

This piece of legislation promised those who served their country an education, aid in finding employment, help toward home ownership, and proper healthcare. What President Roosevelt accomplished in his four terms in office was extraordinary; the effects of which are still felt today. High among this list of accomplishments is the signing into law of the GI Bill, with which President Roosevelt rewarded this country's heroes by educating, aiding and caring for them.

In the six decades since the GI Bill's inception, large numbers of troops have been sent to the beaches of Normandy, the Sea of Japan, Korea, Vietnam, the deserts of the Gulf and the Indian peninsula. What remains is sixty-years of sacrifice and battle scars, each a distinct imprint of the high cost of democracy and independence.

To repay their efforts, we have granted stipends for their college education and doctors for their wounds, offered them aid in housing and provided training for jobs. We have dedicated millions of dollars toward programs geared to enhance their lives through knowledge, healthcare and job growth. Still, the trade-off will forever remain wanting.

Countless young men and women enter into the armed services every year. My state of New York is home to over 1.2 million veterans, with another 26,000 servicemen and women on Reserve and Active duty and over 4,000 enlisted with the National Guard. It is for these honorable adults and those across the nation that we pledge to fund and aid the programs created sixty years ago. These national heroes have defended the freedoms enjoyed

by every American citizen from the time of the Revolutionary War. There are millions of men and women who rely upon this, risk life and limb, and make the commitment to our country and fellow citizens.

It is distressing that this occasion be marked with such unfortunate and ironic efforts to lessen the GI Bill. This as a day meant for respectful remembrance, to all that has been and will be accomplished by those who served in combat. I see a tremendous amount to be proud of in this bill, what it stands for and what it means for all Americans. Sixty years ago, this country invested a great deal into this bill. I believe what we received in return can be measured in far more than dollar signs.

Despite our best intentions, we as Americans find ourselves asking for the same sacrifice from our young men and women as our relatives did six decades prior. 1944 was a year worn by war. Sadly, 2004 will be as well. The service men and women earned the title "greatest generation", from the sacrifice of World War II. The contributions of today's men and women will one day merit such praise as well; praise that can now be enhanced and aided by the continued emphasis in favor of the same GI Bill that aided to the success of the generations since 1944.

HONORING LIEUTENANT JAMES P.
LEARY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant James P. Leary who is celebrating his retirement from the Abington Police Department after nearly 30 years of faithful and devoted service.

Lt. Leary has served in many different capacities during his tenure on the Abington force, working as Watch Commander, Platoon Commander, K-9 Commander, and Auxiliary Service Commander. After joining the department in 1974, he quickly ascended the ranks, receiving a promotion to Sergeant in 1979 and then to Lieutenant in 1981.

His dedication to the community has never faltered, even during his toughest assignment in 1996. In that year, Abington Township fell victim to a severe flood and Lt. Leary worked tirelessly with residents, community leaders, and municipal government agencies to help the area recover. Lt. Leary faced another difficult challenge when he and five patrol officers rescued two severely burned children from a burning building. Bringing those children to safety has been the proudest accomplishment of Leary's career.

In addition to his service to the Abington community as a member of the Police Department, Lt. Leary served his country as a Sergeant in the 5th Special Forces Airborne in Vietnam. He and his wife Martha are the proud parents of four sons and two daughters. Lt. Leary actively participates in the community, where he enjoys spending time with family and friends, and has served for 15 years as the Defensive Coordinator and League Commissioner for the CYO Football Program.

Our community has been privileged to have such a devoted servant and it is my pleasure

to congratulate Lieutenant Leary on his retirement. I wish him all the best as he moves on to his new position as Chief of the Rockledge Borough Police Department.

THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
REFORM ACT OF 2004

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Committee on Resources, today I am introducing a bill that would bring the management of our Nation's ocean fisheries into the 21st century. In this regard, I am pleased to note that the "Fisheries Management Reform Act of 2004" is being introduced with 15 original cosponsors including the gentleman from California, SAM FARR, who serves as co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus.

For my part, I am introducing this measure for two fundamental reasons. First, I believe that we have a responsibility to ensure that our fish stocks—a public resource that belongs to all Americans—will be managed sustainably and based on science, not politics. More importantly, because without sustainably managed fisheries, there will be no fishing industry at all. I do not come to this point lightly, and I appreciate the importance that this issue holds for many Members and their constituents.

As it stands, two separate and well-respected commissions—the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Ocean Commission—were both charged with reviewing our ocean management systems and both made recommendations regarding the need to reform our fisheries management system. Their reports represent several years of research by ocean experts who traveled to coastal communities dependent on commercial and recreational fishing. The Fisheries Management Reform Act of 2004 represents the first legislation proposed to implement those expert recommendations. This is a small step of many that we, as Congress, can take to remedy a system of governance that has not done enough to protect our oceans and, consequently, the communities that depend on them.

In this regard, the "Fisheries Management Reform Act of 2004" would require a broader public interest representation on the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the bodies that are stewards of our Nation's fisheries and are currently dominated by commercial and recreational fishing interests. I am aware of no other public trust resource where management decisions are being made by the very industry that is to be regulated. The bill would require training of all appointed members in fishery science and basic stock assessment, social science and fishery economics, and the legal requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and other pertinent laws. Not only will these two provisions diversify the interests on the Council, but also ensure that those appointed are knowledgeable about fisheries management.

Second, the bill would strengthen current conflict of interest provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. An individual would not be allowed to vote on a Council decision affecting